Seminar on Himalayan Geology and Geophysics

248. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a seminar on Himalayan geology and geophysics was held at Dehradun recently;

(b) if so, the points stressed at the seminar; and

(c) the reaction of Government to the points raised at the seminar ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Seminar held at Dehradun from 22-25 March, 1993, stressed on various aspects of Himalayan Geology as well as on societal aspects such as earthquakes, landslide hazards and environment.

(c) The Government through its various Departments, National Laboratories and Universities are undertaking research investigations on several important problems of Himalayan Geology and on natural hazards.

Removal of travel restrictions by US

249. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH :
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the U. S. State Department have imposed the travel restrictions for US citizens visiting India in view of the terrorist attacks and if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government of India or our Mission in U.S.A. have approached the U.S. Government to provide India with specific and credible information it had regarding potential terrorist acts; and

(c) what steps Government have so far taken for the safety of the lives of persons visiting India from abroad ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) In a public announcement on March 15, 1993, the US Department of State had encouraged US citizens to temporarily defer travel to New Delhi because of information that suggested there was a hightened threat of terrorism. This travel advisory was withdrawn on March 30, 1993.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government are fully committed to ensuring the safety of our citizens as well as visitors from abroad. Security measures in force and potential threats to law and order are constantly monitored and special measures taken from time to time in this regard.

Passport of suspected terrorist revoked

250. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to revoke the passports held by Indian nationals who are suspected to be involved in terrorist activities or similar other offences;

(b) if so, the details of the rules in this regard; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in negative the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) and (c) Section 10(3) of the Passports Act 1967 lists the grounds on the basis of which passports can be impounded or revoked. Whenever information which satisfies the relevant provision of Section 10(3) is provided to the Government action is taken to impound or revoke the passports of the concerned individuals.

Seventh SAARC Summit

251. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Seventh SAARC Summit have approved the draft Dhaka declaration, envisaging a liberalised